

## **ADVISORY: UNITED STATES AIR FORCE EVALUATING CIVIL AIR PATROL IN KNOX THIS WEEKEND**

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KNOX—The United States Air Force will conduct a required evaluation of its official Auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in Starke County this weekend. The evaluation is designed to test the capabilities of CAP to ensure proper and precise use of taxpayer assets including eight aircraft, fifteen ground vehicles and more than 1300 unpaid professionals.

Members of CAP's Indiana Wing will travel to Knox from all four corners of the state to be evaluated on search and rescue skills including aerial photography and imaging, incident command operation, disaster recovery skills and proficiency in aircraft and personnel management.

This weekend's evaluation is in concert with the previous exercise based in Knox which occurred April 8-10. The Incident Command Post will be situated at the Starke County Airport located at 1795 N. 200 E. Members of the media are welcome to attend throughout the weekend including morning briefings that will occur at 8am on Saturday and Sunday. Aircraft and ground teams will be present throughout the northwest and north central Indiana areas throughout the weekend.

The unpaid professionals of Civil Air Patrol practice simulated events throughout the year in order to prepare for actual scenarios such as the recent flooding in the Evansville area as well as the Porter County tornado in 2009 where CAP members responded to the call for help with disaster recovery and relief efforts.

The evaluation involves simulated taskings designed to enhance search and rescue and other emergency services capabilities. CAP volunteers practice search and rescue and disaster recovery efforts to afford Indiana yet another organization on which to rely for such situations.

Incident Commander for the evaluation is Col. Mark Reeves of Indianapolis. "Indiana Wing looks forward to the USAF's biannual evaluation because we best perform under the intense scrutiny of high-pressure mission situations," Col. Reeves said. "This weekend gives us one more opportunity to showcase CAP's ability to provide the most economical search and rescue service in Indiana."

Indiana Wing flew more than 2500 hours in FY 2010 assisting local law enforcement in eradicating over \$48M in marijuana during the 2010 Counterdrug season; infrastructure reconnaissance and active missions of Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) or missing persons searches. Members contribute over half a million dollars to local economies in fuel purchases, routine aircraft maintenance, hotel rooms, food purchases and other economic contributions.